

WASHINGTON, DC—Congressman Ciro D. Rodriguez (TX-23) issued the following statement after he voted to override the President's veto of the Food and Energy Security Act or the Farm Bill. The bipartisan legislation passed by the overwhelming margin of 317 to 109, is supported by more than 1,000 organizations representing farmers, conservationists, and those supporting energy alternatives and nutrition assistance for families and children. The bill would aid Texas' rural economy through a combination of new and renewed programs for family farmers and ranchers, conservation, nutrition, rural and energy development programs.

"I voted to override the President's veto today because last month Congress overwhelmingly passed a bipartisan Farm Bill that addresses many of the needs of rural communities, family farmers and ranchers, those concerned with continued conservation, and the expansion of nutrition programs for many of our most vulnerable citizens including children and seniors.

"This Farm Bill helps reduce gas prices and ensures that America's family farmers can help fuel America's energy independence. The bill makes a \$1 billion investment in energy independence and creates a new tax credit that will provide a \$400 million investment in cellulosic biofuels, such as switchgrass. These efforts will help us to spend more of our energy dollars in Texas and throughout middle America instead of in the Middle East."

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Congressman Ciro D. Rodriguez (TX-23) serves as a Member of the powerful House Appropriations Committee and the Veterans Affairs Committee. For more information about Rodriguez, see his website at <http://rodriguez.house.gov/>